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House of Representatives

The House met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. PETRI].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 16, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We know, O gracious God, that the pace of living is brisk and yet we know too that we need to take time to meditate on Your good gifts to us and to reflect on how we can translate Your gifts into our daily lives. May we use the gift of faith so our lives develop meaning and purpose; may we use the gift of hope so that we can anticipate a new and brighter day; may we use the gift of love so that we know others with trust and affection and share with them our innermost feelings and experiences. May Your gifts, O God, that have nourished us along the way be with us this day and every day we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1306. An act to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to clarify the applicability of host State laws to any branch in such State of an out-of-State bank.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 210. An act to amend the Organic Act of Guam, the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, and the Compact of Free Association Act, and for other purposes;

S. 289. An act to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at the corner of Superior Road and Huron Road in Cleveland, Ohio, as the "Carl B. Stokes United States Courthouse";

S. 347. An act to designate the Federal building located at 100 Alabama Street NW, in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Sam Nunn Federal Center";

S. 419. An act to provide surveillance, research, and services aimed at prevention of birth defects, and for other purposes;

S. 478. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 475 Mulberry Street in Macon, Georgia, as the "William Augustus Bootle Federal Building and United States Courthouse";

S. 628. An act to designate the United States courthouse to be constructed at the corner of 7th Street and East Jackson Street

in Brownsville, Texas, as the "Reynaldo G. Garza United States Courthouse";

S. 681. An act to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 300 Northeast First Avenue in Miami, Florida, as the "David W. Dyer Federal Courthouse";

S. 715. An act to redesignate the Dublin Federal Courthouse building located in Dublin, Georgia, as the J. Roy Rowland Federal Courthouse; and

S. 819. An act to designate the United States courthouse at 200 South Washington Street in Alexandria, Virginia, as the "Martin V. B. Bostetter, Jr. United States Courthouse".

The message also announced that pursuant to sections 276d-276g of title 22, United States Code, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the Senator from Washington [Mrs. MURRAY] as Vice Chair of the Senate delegation to the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group during the 105th Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 101-445, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, appoints Arlene M. Chamberlain, of South Dakota, to the National Nutrition Monitoring Advisory Council.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 13, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 5 of Rule III of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on Thursday, June 12, 1997 at 6:40 p.m.: that the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 32,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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and, that the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1871.

With warm regards,

ROBIN H. CARLE,

Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Thursday, June 12, 1997:

H.R. 1871. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, including those in Bosnia, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL OBJECTORS FOR PRIVATE CALENDAR, 105TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that the official objectors for the Private Calendar for the 105th Congress are as follows:

For the majority: Messrs. SENSENBRENNER, Wisconsin; COBLE, North Carolina; and GOODLATTE, Virginia.

For the minority: Mr. BOUCHER, Virginia, and Ms. DELAURO, Connecticut.

SPECIAL ORDERS

POLITICS AS USUAL BAD POLICY FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. SCARBOROUGH] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend and over the past 3 or 4 weeks we have been hearing a lot on television about flood relief and the politicization of that process, and we have been hearing about how flood victims got caught in the middle of a political gambit and they have actually been upset and injured by politics as usual in Washington, DC.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the floor today because I have been looking through some newspapers across the country to see what they were doing outside the beltway and I wanted to check into some of the charges that actually what happened on this flood relief bill actually did affect flood victims, because we get in Washington and one hears different things.

In fact, I heard the Vice President last week go before a press conference and say the following, and this is from the Philadelphia Inquirer dated last week: Vice President GORE accused the Republicans of issuing an ultimatum. Quote: "They are saying to the American people, we want to make it clear that we will hurt you unless these provisions are accepted."

The charge is almost frantic, that actually there were people in this Cham-

ber that wanted to hurt Americans if they did not go along with their own political agenda. It reminded me of some of the things that I heard in the past when the President and Vice President would come out to the press conference when we were trying to balance the budget and try to hide behind Medicare and try to scare senior citizens and talk about how we wanted to slash Medicare, when in fact we were trying to save Medicare and were putting out a proposal very similar to what the President was putting out.

There is this tactic that they always seem to use. Every time you start to nail them down and try to force them to be physically responsible, they would say, oh, you are trying to hurt old people, you are trying to hurt senior citizens, you are trying to hurt young children, you are trying to hurt flood victims. So it was sort of these scare tactics to try to stop us from doing what needed to be done.

During the flood relief bill, what some Members wanted to do was actually put in a provision that would prevent the Federal Government from ever shutting down again. But when this was attempted, the President, the Vice President, and many Members in this Chamber got out there saying, oh, you are hurting the flood victims, you are hurting the flood victims. I have to tell my colleagues as an American sitting out there on the couch watching TV, one would look at it and say, gee, how could anybody want to hurt the flood victims like that.

Then, as is the case usually in Washington, DC, you peel away a layer of rhetoric, you peel away another layer of demagoguery and one gets down to the facts, and the facts look quite different from what politicians inside Washington, DC, are telling us.

This is what the Philadelphia Inquirer wrote on Thursday, June 12. They quoted a political scientist from Carleton College in Minnesota, one of the affected areas, and his name is Steven Scheer and he is a political scientist. He said the following: "Federal money is already flowing into the flood-damaged areas, so this is not going to affect things for a while," said this Minnesota political scientist. Yet, the Democrats indicate that people are drowning and starving as a result of this. It is not true.

Let me say that again. It is not true. A political scientist who lives in Minnesota who studies politics and, more important, understands the pain and the suffering and the misery that the men and the women of the Midwest have been putting up with for so long says firsthand, "the Federal money is already here."

If anybody said what happened in Washington over the past week or two did anything to directly hurt people in the Midwest, then according to this political scientist quoted by the Philadelphia Inquirer, it is not true. Federal money is already flowing, so this is not going to affect things for a while. Yet

the Democrats indicate that people are drowning and starving as a result of this. It is not true.

So one sits there and one asks oneself, if it is not true, according to this political scientist in Minnesota and others who understand the process, why would the Vice President of the United States come out and say that it was true that somehow what happened in Washington last week was going to hurt people in the Midwest, or why would the President make the same inferences, why would people on this floor storm up to the microphone day after day after day after day and say something that clearly did not reflect reality?

Well, I guess unfortunately for too many in this Chamber it is politics as usual. If one cannot win by using the facts, then try to win by kind of shifting the facts around. Try to scare people. If one does not want people to sit down and know the real story, then kind of shuffle the deck a little bit and deal from the bottom of the deck once in a while and maybe one can confuse people enough. I mean maybe that is what they think. It is very unfortunate. But the reality is that flood money was sent to the Midwest and in fact has been fully funded for some time and will be fully funded for some time. But again, Democrats used this as a political attack last week for purely political purposes, and it is unfortunate.

So when the Vice President says "We want to make it clear that we will hurt you unless these provisions are accepted," it does not match up with reality. I can say as a Member from the State of Florida, which seems, unfortunately, seems to have a hurricane about two or three times a year, in my district especially—2 years ago we had two hurricanes in 1 month's time period—I understand firsthand about devastation. I understand about how in one day's time, a family's existence, a family's home, their property, their life, can be blown away with the wind, blown away by a flood.

So the last thing that I am going to want to do, the last thing that anybody here is going to want to do is to do anything to hurt flood victims. Again, we did not do that, but we have people coming up here and demagoguing on the issue to try to scare them. I think it is really unfortunate.

Again, that is what happened last year when we were talking about Medicare, when we were trying to save Medicare for senior citizens and keep it solvent. We had so many people coming down here and saying, oh, they are trying to cut Medicare, trying to do this, trying to do that, again, all for political points.

I can tell my colleagues, as somebody who is relatively new to this Chamber, it gets awfully frustrating that we find that too many times debate in this great Chamber, which is really the center of freedom around the world, is resolved to name-calling and